

ISAAC JACOB AND MARY MATILDA GERBER JACOB

Isaac Jacob was the son of Norton Jacob and Emily Heaton Jacob. Born June 24, 1852, in Salt Lake City. Married Mary Matilda Gerber June 27, 1877, in the Salt Lake Endowment House. Died April 19, 1929, Salt Lake City. Buried in Midway.

Mary Matilda Gerber, daughter of Dr. John Gerber and Anna Maria Ackert Gerber. Born October 11, 1858, in Washington, Washington County. Died March 17, 1954, Los Angeles, California. Buried in Midway.

Isaac Jacob was born in Salt Lake City. The family later lived in Payson a short time. However, when Isaac was six years old they had moved to Midway, and here Isaac spent the next forty years of his life. From his illustrious father he learned much about building and was very active in assisting with building projects in early Midway. He did much logging, in the mountains nearby, thus obtaining building material from the saw mill in exchange for the logs. Through his industry he completed a home before he married.

For some time Isaac lived at his brother Joseph's home. Joseph had married Eleonora (Ellen) Gerber. Her younger sister, Mary Matilda, often visited in their home and thus she became well acquainted with Isaac. They began "keeping company" when he was 20 and she 14. After five years they were married in the Salt Lake Endowment House, June 27, 1877.

Mary Matilda Gerber was a daughter of Dr. John and Anna Maria Ackert Gerber, being the sixth child in this early pioneer family. The family lived in Cove Fort, and Provo, before settling in Midway in 1861. About 1867 they spent some months in Parleys Canyon where they lived in a "dug-out." Here the resourceful mother made gingerbread and lunches and sold to the travelers, thus assisting with the living.

In 1868 the Gerber family moved to Salt Lake City, where they lived in one of Sarah M. Kimball's houses. Here the father practiced medicine and the family had a better living than they had had for some time. However, they remained but three years, when they returned to Midway. Shortly thereafter her father contracted pneumonia and died.

The children gathered greens which supplied most of the diet. Matilda went into

the grain fields with her brothers and sisters and gleaned grain enough each fall to keep them in flour for the year. They gathered hops and sold them to the store. They had no stove, but cooked on a fireplace, kettles being hung on large hooks. The bread was baked in large iron skillet, covered over the top with live coals. The grasshoppers were so thick it was difficult to cook without getting them in the food. To start fires they would watch to see who had smoke coming from their fireplace or chimney and go get some live coals, hurry home and start their fire as matches were very scarce.

Matilda was gifted as a milliner. She made herself a hat from straw gathered from the field. She bleached the straw in a barrel with sulphur smoke, braided it in three strands. She trimmed the hat with a horse hair flower and added a few beads. She became so interested she went to Salt Lake and studied the millinery trade. After her marriage she had her shop in one room of her house and continued in this profession for ten years. She also gave dressmaking lessons.

Eleven children were born to this couple and in addition they reared a girl from infancy.

Isaac and Matilda were both very active in Church work. Isaac served as superintendent of the Sunday School for over thirty years. He aided in the building committees and held various other offices in the different organizations. He was advanced in the Priesthood and finally was ordained to the office of a High Priest by Hyrum G. Smith, in Hinckley, Utah, in 1919. Isaac was kind and generous and never turned anyone from his door, but always aided those less fortunate than he. He was always known for his integrity and honesty. Usually when people needed to borrow money they would go to Abram Hatch. He would tell them if they could get Isaac Jacob to sign with them they could have the loan. Likewise, he could get credit anywhere as his word was as good as his bond. He served many years as road commissioner in Midway and was a successful cattle man.

He died in Salt Lake City at the age of 77, and was buried in Midway.

Matilda was set apart as president of the Young Women's Mutual Improvement Association by Eliza R. Snow and Zina D. Young, who were at that time organizing the associations throughout the county. She

took this office before the birth of her first child and continued therein until after her sixth baby was born. For many years she had charge of the wheat for the Relief Society in Midway. Matilda was the youngest girl to join the Relief Society in Midway, being just 14 years of age. She began serving as a visiting teacher and faithfully fulfilled this assignment for 70 years. She also assisted with the directing of plays.

She died at the age of 94 at a daughter's home in Los Angeles, California. Funeral services were held in Salt Lake City and she was buried in Midway.

Children of Isaac and Mary Matilda Jacob included:

Mary;
Matilda;
Adelia;
Ellen;
Elsie;
Ellis;
Byron;
Earl;
Etta;

— twins who died of prematurity.

GEORGE W. JOHNSON



Bishop of Midway First Ward 1938-1944.

George W. Johnson was born July 9, 1901, a son of Nels Joseph Johnson and Mary Ann Orgill. He was born in Heber City, at the site of the old Hatch Flour and Grist Mill, where his father was the miller. At the age of one, his parents moved to Midway, where they purchased the Flour and Grist Mill formerly owned by Mark Jeff; and here he spent his boyhood, learning the milling business from his father, and attending the elementary schools there, and coming up through the channels of the Church and the priesthood quorums.

He was the oldest child of a family of eight children, four boys and four girls. This

was the second marriage of his father, and there was an older sister living from the first marriage. His early childhood and boyhood were spent mostly with his brothers and sisters as his companions, as they lived out of town and had no near neighbors. They spent many hours together with the mother reading good books aloud to her children and having them take music lessons and other cultural pursuits.

He always took an active part in Church being in the presidency of both the deacon and teachers quorums; and in his late boyhood was a counselor in the MIA under William L. Van Wagoner and also a Sunday School teacher. On November 9, 1921, he was called to serve a mission to the Central States where he labored until June 5, 1924, having many interesting and faith promoting experiences in that time under the presidency of Elder Samuel O. Bennion.

On August 13, 1924, he was married to Jennie Luella Pyper in the Salt Lake Temple, and to their union were born five children, three sons and two daughters. His children are: Max George, Georgia Dawn, Ruth Anna, Keith Pyper, and William Lowell. Keith died at nineteen months, and Ruth Anna was killed in an automobile accident at the age of eighteen years.

The first seven years of his married life he lived in Heber City in the Heber 1st Ward where he was Superintendent of the Sunday School for a number of years and also taught the adult class in MIA. He was also in the presidency of the First Quorum of Elders. Later he moved to Lakeview, Utah County, where he lived for one year and then he purchased the Jesse McCarroll home and farm in Midway and has resided there since that time.

He was sustained as Bishop of the Midway First Ward January 8, 1938, after serving as a counselor to Bishop Clark Bronson for some time and as a member of the Wasatch Stake High Council for eighteen months. The Ward had 525 members at that time. He was ordained a Bishop by Elder Joseph F. Merrill January 13, 1938, in Salt Lake City. He was ordained a High Priest by Elder George Albert Smith. His counselors who served with him in the bishopric were Charles E. Buehler and John H. Joost. The clerks were Clyde Pyper and Ernest Kuhni. He served for five years.

He has served continuously as a teacher in Sunday School Gospel Doctrine Class for